

The first baby boomers
are turning 60 and
retirement looms ahead

No Spring Chicken



Who's Booming?

If you used to have long hair, and now you're longing for hair, you just might be a Baby Boomer. If the clothes you've put away until they come back in style have come back in style (even though they don't fit any more), you just might be a Baby Boomer. And, if you were born between 1946 and 1964, you definitely are a Baby Boomer.

The Baby Boom generation has dominated this country's demographics since their birth. Now, the first Baby Boomers are turning 60 and retirement looms ahead. Areas with large Boomer populations will soon find themselves with significantly smaller labor forces. With this in mind, let's take a look at which counties currently house the largest share of Baby Boomers.

On or Off the "Front"?

Do counties outside the Wasatch Front have a larger or smaller share of Baby Boomers than the "big four" (Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, and Weber) counties? Remarkably, the core Wasatch Front counties and the remainder of the state show almost identical shares of Baby Boomers in their populations—roughly 23 percent for both.

However, these averages can be deceiving. Utah's counties show diverse shares of Baby-Boomer populations. Summit County tops the list with a full third of its population in the Baby Boomer group. On the other end of the spectrum, Utah County shows only 17 percent Baby-Boomer population. Utah County bucks the trend of the rest of the Wasatch Front counties which exhibit Baby-Boomer shares in a tight 24-to-25

percent range.


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Counties “off the Front” are as diverse in this demographic measure as they are in most others. Interestingly, counties which include a dominant college or university typically show the smallest shares of Baby Boom populations. Along with Utah County, Cache, Washington, Iron, and Sanpete County show the smallest share of Boomers in Utah.

From Youth to Old Age

Populations that are either extremely bottom-heavy (lots of kids) or top-heavy (lots of seniors)

certainly impact the share of Boomers in a particular county. For example, San Juan and Juab County have the highest share of under-18 population in the state and rank near the bottom of the ranking. In addition, Piute and Washington counties have the highest share of seniors in the state, and also show small shares of Baby Boomer populations.

Being the youngest state in the nation certainly contributes to Utah counties having a smaller-than-average share of Baby Boomers. In fact, only three counties—Summit, Grand, and Daggett—show higher percentages of Baby Boomers than the national average. 

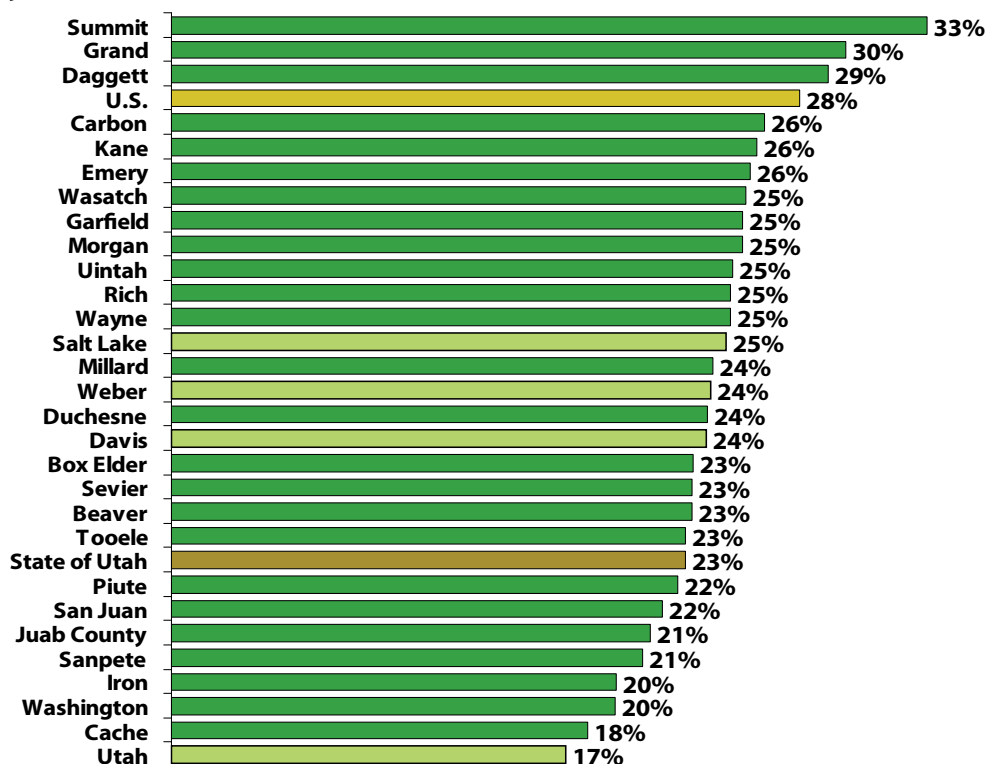
did you know?

- Brian Head Resort in Iron County announced a proposed expansion that eventually could include a golf course, a lodge and high-end housing. *The Spectrum*

- According to a report from the U.S. Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, St. George (with an appreciation rate of 31.6 percent) ranked among the top five U.S. cities for home price appreciation. *The Deseret Morning News*

- Utah Power has signed a 20-year agreement to buy 42 megawatts of power from a geothermal plant near Cove Fort in Beaver County, but it could be two years or more before electricity begins flowing according to Amp Resources, a Utah-based energy firm. *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Baby Boomers* as a Share of Total Population, 2000



* Population born between 1946 and 1964.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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